

# STATE OF NEW YORK

## LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2014, A.D.

*I Hereby Certify that at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County, held in the County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March 2014, A.D. a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

*WHEREAS, on October 24, 2013, Erie County Sheriff Timothy B. Howard unveiled a new housing area at the Erie County Holding Center designed specifically for incarcerated veterans, and;*

*WHEREAS, The Erie County Holding Center was the first jail in New York State to have such an area aimed at addressing the special needs of incarcerated veterans, and;*

*WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office Veterans Housing Unit is equipped to house up to 28 veteran inmates at a time, averaging 22 incarcerated veterans on any given day, and;*

*WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office Veterans Housing Unit works in conjunction with the City of Buffalo Veteran's Court, as well as the Veteran's Administration allowing staff from both of these organizations to be present at the unit on a regular basis, conducting group and individual counseling sessions, and;*

*WHEREAS, housing the veterans together has assisted these organizations in better serving the needs of veterans who have been incarcerated, discussing potential services and benefits available to veterans offenders upon their release, as well as connecting them with appropriate transitional programs to assist them in their reintegration into the community, and;*

*WHEREAS, the Veterans Housing Unit has allowed the inmates, to relate to each other through their shared bond of military service, and;*

*WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office Veterans Housing Unit has proven to be beneficial in helping veterans suffering from PTSD, housing veterans together allows them a comforting supportive environment that will allow them to talk, relate and lean on each other helping get them back on the right path, and;*

*WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office Veterans Housing Unit also focuses on providing veteran inmates with resources to fall back on once they're released, helping to provide housing and employment outside of cell walls, and;*

*WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office Veterans Housing Unit has been toured by the Vietnam Veterans of America, as well as the National Institute of Correction, and was hailed as a great success.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this legislative body pauses in its deliberations to honor Sheriff Timothy B. Howard and the Erie County Sheriff's Jail Management Division for their Veteran Housing Unit winning the New York State Sheriff's Association Institute's 2014 "Innovative Program Award" and for their work to give a much deserved second chance to those individuals who are most deserving, having put their life on the line for their county.*